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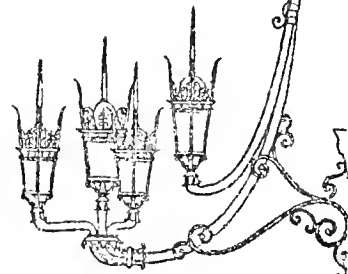


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COMMUNITY MEETING  
ON  
MASTER PLAN PROPOSALS AND PRIORITIES  
FOR  
FRANKLIN PARK

Thursday, October 27, 7PM

Lena Park CDC  
150 American Legion Highway

This meeting is one in a series of public meetings held as part of the Department of Environmental Management's Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program. Copies of the proposals and priorities will be available at the meeting or in advance at:

Boston Parks and Recreation Department, 294 Washington Street  
Dudley Branch Library, 64 Warren Street  
Egleston Square Branch Library, 2044 Columbus Avenue  
Lena Park CDC, 150 American Legion Highway

For further information call:  
Victoria Williams, Boston Parks and Recreation, 725-3812

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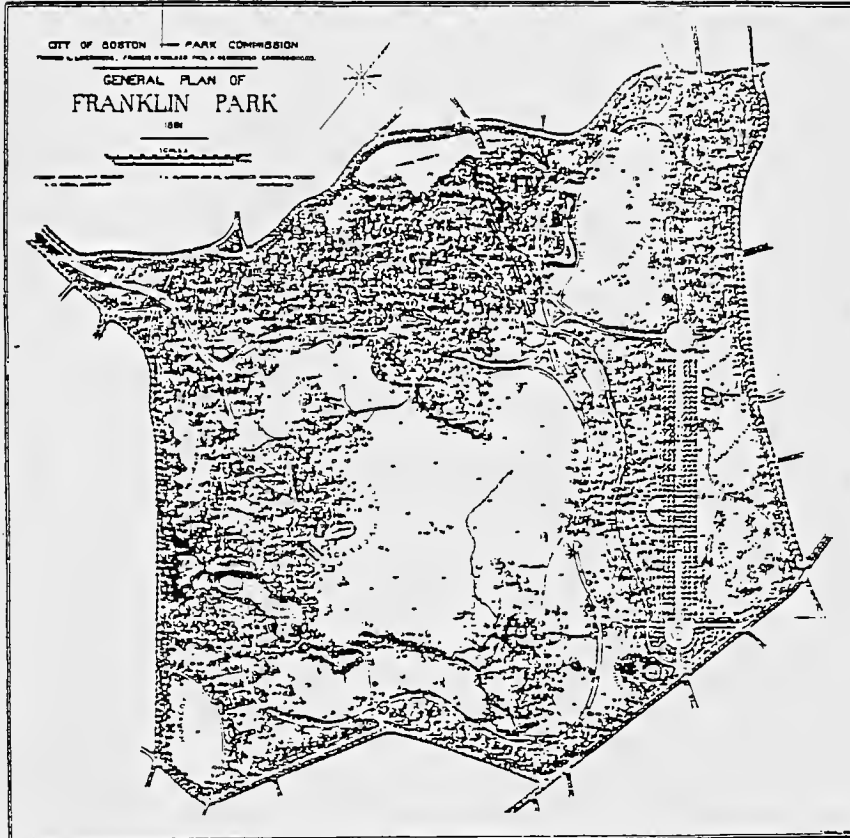
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FRANKLIN PARK MASTER PLAN

SUMMARY REPORT

October 17, 1988 - Draft

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Prepared for:

Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program  
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management

City of Boston, Parks and Recreation Department

Master Plan Consultant:

The Halvorson Company





# Boston

Raymond L. Flynn, Mayor

October 17, 1988

Dear Community Member:

As you may know, for the past two years we have been developing a long-range restoration plan for Franklin Park, under the auspices of the Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program sponsored by the state Department of Environmental Management.

Last fall and spring we held community meetings to review issues and begin to work toward a consensus for the plan, taking into consideration the history of the park, its physical condition, contemporary use, and management and maintenance factors.

Since then we have taken the comments and concerns of the community and outside agencies under advisement to further develop the plan. The enclosed summary report represents this effort. We call your attention to pages 19 and 20 which spell out high priority projects, including those to be funded by \$2 million available from the Olmsted Program.

We invite you to share your comments on this document at the next community meeting:

Thursday, October 27, 1988; 7:00 PM  
Lena Park CDC  
150 American Legion Highway

Or contact me at the address below or at 725-3812.

Sincerely,

*Victoria L. Williams*  
Victoria L. Williams  
Assistant Commissioner



William B. Coughlin, Commissioner/Parks and Recreation Department/Boston City Hall/City Hall Plaza 02201



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## INTRODUCTION

This document is a condensation of the full Master Plan report for restoration of Franklin Park. This abridged version presents proposals which have evolved during the course of 18 months of informal and formal agency and community meetings. During that meeting, community members had an opportunity to critique initial proposals, and that input has been incorporated into these revised proposals.

With the completion of the Master Plan and the expenditure of \$2 million in State Capital Improvement funds, the City of Boston will be undertaking the most comprehensive restoration effort in Franklin Park since its construction one hundred years ago. This enormous undertaking has involved the efforts of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management who has funded the project under the Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department who owns and maintains the park, the Franklin Park Coalition, a Park Partner and advocacy group, a Task Force representing numerous community groups, and landscape architectural consultants assisted by a team of sub-consultants.

The Master Plan proposals represent a vision of Franklin Park's future that respects the park's historic past while at the same time serving current needs. Some proposals are modest, others are ambitious and far-reaching. For every major project proposed within Franklin Park, there will be incremental steps that the City can take toward implementing them and realizing the ultimate goal of a more useable and beautiful park. Projects have also been prioritized, and recommendations made for the expenditure of the first \$2 million in capital funds from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management.

What follows is a history of the park's development and change over time, a synopsis of the master planning process and products, and a summary of Master Plan principles and proposals.



## FRANKLIN PARK: THE FIRST 100 YEARS

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### Franklin Park and the Boston Park Movement

By the late 1860's and early 1870's, a number of factors combined to give impetus to the Boston park movement. The rapidly developing urban area caused concerns about the quality of life in the city, while the success of New York's Central Park served as a model for the positive influence of large rural parks on city residents. The annexations of neighboring cities including Roxbury and Dorchester allowed for the acquisition of large tracts of land for the development of major parks.

There were numerous park schemes proposed for Boston during this time, many of them metropolitan in scope. The Park Act of 1875 was followed by the appointment of the first park commissioners who were to consider park proposals from land owners, designers and the general public.

By this time, Frederick Law Olmsted had become recognized as the preeminent park designer, a social activist as well as one of the foremost environmental thinkers of the country. Boston hired him to develop what is now known as the Emerald Necklace system of parks, connecting the existing Boston Common and Public Garden together with the Commonwealth Avenue Mall and the Back Bay Fens to what he considered the "main" park of the system, Franklin Park. The land for Franklin Park was purchased in 1881 for \$600,000 and opened to the public as early as 1883, before Olmsted's final Revised General Plan was done in 1891 and before construction was completed.

### Park Design: Organization and Principles

Unlike the four other parks that constitute the Emerald Necklace, the land designated for Franklin Park needed relatively little alteration to achieve Olmsted's vision for the 527-acre park. The size, shape, topography and vegetation of the site allowed for the development of a single park with a rich variety of landscapes and scenic experiences reflective of the distinct character of the New England countryside. The configuration of the park is also quite distinct from the Back Bay Fens, the Riverway, Olmsted Park and Jamaica Pond which form a continuous linear park system following the Muddy River watercourse.

In contrast, Franklin Park was developed as a distinct entity comprised of a series of broad open spaces and smaller subsidiary spaces. These are framed by woodlands of varying size and ruggedness of character, and by hills overlooking the meadows below. Olmsted planted the entire boundary of the park to effectively screen views of the city from the park landscape and create the illusion of rural New England.

Olmsted's experience of the threat of artificial intrusions into his rural landscape parks caused him to devise the ingenious design solution of dividing the park into two sections. The main division, two-thirds of the park acreage, he called The Country





Park, designed to provide the harried urban dweller with the soothing experience of being in a beautiful country setting. Olmsted was convinced that:

"A man's eyes cannot be as much occupied as they are in large cities by artificial things, or by natural things seen under obviously artificial conditions, without a harmful effect, first on his mental and nervous system and ultimately on his entire constitutional organization."

At the edge of The Country Park, near the Blue Hill Avenue entrance, he provided a place for refreshments called The Refectory. The remainder of the park he called The Ante Park, or fore-park, which was set aside for active recreational uses and supported in places by structured facilities. Here he designed a linear promenade, The Greeting, for walking, driving and meeting neighbors; a Music Court for concerts; a Little Folks Fair for children's play; a Deer Park or range for a small herd of deer, and several field areas for sports and civic ceremonies. Most of these divisions were never built. The greeting design was never completed, and saw construction and alterations over a period of years. The main field area, The Playstead, was designed with an elevated platform at the periphery named "The Overlook" for spectators. Here also stood the Playstead Overlook Shelter, a rustic building used in conjunction with the playing fields. It was the only building ever designed by Olmsted and was a masterpiece of the Shingle style. He separated the two main park divisions with a sunken cross-park road, Glen Lane, and dense plantations of trees and shrubs.

## Use and Change Over Time

Franklin Park has undergone changes in use patterns as well as in its natural and built landscape. The major use and physical changes of the last hundred years are summarized here.

William L. Fischer, an accomplished gardener and horticulturalist from Germany, became Olmsted's hands-on designer/gardener, a perceptive collaborator who worked largely without detailed plans to implement and maintain Olmsted's vision for the park's landscape.

This sympathetic treatment of the park design declined as Fischer aged, and finally ended with the tenure of John Pettigrew as Boston Park Superintendent from 1897 to 1912. Directed from behind the scenes by Charles Sprague Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum, Pettigrew eliminated most evergreens from the park, introduced a smooth and uniform planting style as opposed to the naturalistic style intended, and removed many of the park's rustic structures, including the Forest Hills entrance gates and the Schoolmaster Hill stone and wood arbor.

In the years following World War II, the shift of urban populations to the suburbs resulted, nationally, in a decline in constituency and budgets for parks. In Boston, as well as in the rest of the country, the downward spiral of decreasing funding and a lack of a concerned constituency resulted in disrespect for park property and a decline in visitation due to perceived neglect of parklands and the perception of unsafe



conditions. Proposition 2 1/2 resulted in what might be considered the low water mark for the park maintenance and management.

Although the basic framework of the park remains intact today, a number of major developments have occurred during the twentieth century that have brought unplanned-for pressures to bear on Franklin Park and have dramatically changed some park areas visually and functionally.

The 100-acre Country Meadow is the central and most important landscape of the park. It is one of the two truly great landscapes in the pastoral style designed by Olmsted. However, the meadow was appropriated for use as a golf course from the time of the park's beginning, authorized experimentally in 1890. The first golf course in the city and the second public course in the nation, it attracted 40,000 golfers in 1900 and 55,000 by 1926. That number has dwindled as other golf courses on larger tracts of land were built since that time. Golf has preserved the open character of the meadow, but has unfortunately restricted its use to a single active sport. In addition a building was constructed in what was intended to be an open, undeveloped landscape:

"...from no part of this Country Park division...shall anything...be visible, or at most noticeable, except rock, turf and trees, and these harmoniously composing with the natural scenery."

The greatest departure from the original plan and the development of the largest impact on the park has been the establishment of Boston's first zoological garden, built in 1911 along the northeastern edge of Franklin Park. Olmsted's plan identified a Deer Park as well as use of Long Crouch Woods along Seaver Street for a zoological garden. His concept was limited to open ranges or small shelters for native animals. He objected to the proliferation of zoo buildings because of cost, visual impact, and the carrying capacity of the site. The Franklin Park Zoo was built primarily for the purpose of attracting more visitors into the park and has undergone a series of design changes over the years that have increasingly obliterated The Greeting and precluded the other park functions planned for in this area.

Perhaps the greatest visual intrusion into Franklin Park was the building in 1954 of Shattuck Hospital in The Country Park division. The several buildings that comprise the complex took seventeen acres of the open Heathfield park section, disrupted the path system here and drastically altered the experience of entering the park from the west. The twelve-story main building is visible from many vantage points in The Country Park, and brings the urban environment into the park.

The Playstead Overlook Shelter burned in 1945, and plans to rebuild it were never realized. Instead, the George Robert White Stadium was built in 1949, replacing the need for the Shelter's field house facilities. Located in the active park division, the stadium became another large and dominating structure in the park:

The park was intensively used during the early years of its life. The Annual Report of the Parks Department in 1886 reported that average summer Sunday attendance was between 11,000 and 15,000 people. However, the early decades of the 1900's saw a decline in



attendance, despite the fact that there was an increase in population around the park. One unfortunate increase in use at this time was the use of Circuit Drive by the automobile, and by cross-town traffic more than park-related traffic. The road was designed for pleasure carriage travel, but increasing demand on the thoroughfare forced the decision to widen it in 1925 and straighten its alignment. Pathways and roadside plantings were eliminated in the process.

The automobile has been the single most destructive force on Franklin Park in its 100-year history. In the 1960's and 1970's the park was overrun with automobiles. A Master Plan for the park prepared in 1980 by V. Michael Weinmayer Associates focused on the threat of the automobile to the park. Among other recommendations it proposed closure of entrances and roads with boulders and the establishment of a running granite block wall along major segments of Circuit Drive and other sensitive landscapes. Implementation of those proposals freed the park from the abuse and vandalism brought by the automobile but became another visual intrusion into the rural scenery.

The decades of the 1950's and 1960's saw a rapid and complete demographic shift of the neighborhood. In the aftermath of the racial tensions of the 1960's many people, including the Boston Police, shunned Franklin Park.

The park landscape reflected the effects of abuse and neglect. The lack of systematic management of the woodlands since 1920 left them diseased and overcrowded, with decline in species diversity and loss of the many shrub and understory plants that gave the park landscape its variety and interest. Structures were deteriorated or gone altogether through fire or dismantling, and the poor condition of the path system discouraged use of many park areas.

This alarming situation prompted the formation in 1975 of the community-based Franklin Park Coalition, an organization which grew out of an earlier committee formed to advocate for the park. It has had a model partnership relationship with the City to improve, maintain, promote and police Franklin Park. The commitment of the present City Administration to increased funding for parks and open space and the reorganized Parks and Recreation Department's mission to strengthen management and improve maintenance will revitalize Franklin Park.

## **THE OLMSTED PROGRAM**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in recognition of Frederick Law Olmsted's profound impact on the life and welfare of urban inhabitants across the Commonwealth, initiated in 1984 the first state-wide Olmsted park restoration program of its kind in the country. The Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program is administered by the Department of Environmental Management on behalf of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Its charge is "to create a long-term rehabilitation framework which will guide future planning, maintenance and preservation action through increased public awareness of the historical significance of the Olmsted legacy and through funding of major capital improvement projects." The focus of the program is directed toward preservation of original park elements and restoration of areas to their original design intent, use and appearance. Restoration proposals will incorporate the considerations of current uses and needs. Franklin Park along with the rest of the Emerald Necklace and parks in Brockton, Fall River, Lynn, New Bedford and Springfield, Worcester were chosen to be part of this program.



## THE MASTER PLAN PROCESS

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The master planning process proceeded in four stages: 1) program definition; 2) inventory and analysis; 3) Master Plan alternatives; 4) final Master Plan and implementation.

### Stage One: Program Definition

The first stage confronted the basic questions -- why are we doing what we are doing, and what are the principles that are guiding our efforts? A detailed set of Guiding Principles, Goals and Objectives was formulated that became not only the rationale and testing ground for Master Plan proposals but also the ordering of needs and defining of purposes that should serve the decision-making process for Franklin Park in years to come.

### Stage Two: Inventory and Analysis

The next stage involved an extensive process of scrutiny, both of the park's history and of its current conditions. A study was also conducted of the public's use and perception of the park. This involved observations of park use during a variety of times, as well as telephone interviews. A lengthy historical study of the park's design, construction and change over time was prepared by Cynthia Zaitzevsky and Molly Gerard. A comparative study of the park was also made, from three vantage points: The 1891 Revised General Plan; the 1980 Master Plan; and the existing conditions of the park. The next step in this stage of the process was an evaluation of the implications of all the data that was gathered on design, history, physical condition, maintenance and use. How was the park faring, in light of both current needs and Olmsted's original intentions for it? A synthesis of the major park problems and opportunities was made, and out of this Key Issues emerged.

### Stage Three: Master Plan Alternatives

In the third stage a brainstorming process was used to identify all the possible resolutions to the Key Issues faced in the park. Five categories of issues were considered and correlated in this problem-solving process: Use and Facilities; Structures and Furnishings; Access, Circulation and Parking; Infrastructure; and Landscape Composition and Management. These were refined to three Master Plan Alternatives representing options ranging from those which were closest to the spirit, if not the letter, of Olmsted's original design, to those which would most strongly favor existing conditions and current demands. Many options were considered during this stage of work.

### Stage Four: Final Master Plan and Implementation

During the final Master Plan stage, one plan was developed that adopted the best components of the three alternatives. A detailed maintenance and management plan was also prepared that allocated each acre of Franklin Park to one of sixteen management





zones defined by type of vegetative cover and desired landscape character. Approximate costs of the Master Plan were estimated, and priorities were established with community input for project implementation. Some projects can be undertaken immediately, with \$2 million in separate allocations by the state for high priority projects. Others have been identified as either medium priority or long-range projects and will need funding from a variety of sources.

This process proceeded over the course of a year and a half, and involved many people and agencies. Throughout, there has been close collaboration between the Master Planning Team, the Department of Environmental Management and the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, with periodic assessments by the community Task Force and close contact with the Franklin Park Coalition particularly during park inventory and analysis.

## **THE PRODUCT: BLUEPRINT FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS**

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One hundred years of Franklin Park's existence has seen periods of great vitality and record use, as well as periods of decline and abuse. The primary purpose of the Master Plan is to facilitate park restoration and renewed park use by building on the original design principles articulated by Olmsted and reaffirmed by today's park users. The proposals put forth herein must be able to be viewed with a critical eye and modified when deemed necessary to accommodate current needs. This should be done with an adherence to the plan's Guiding Principles and Goals which reflect the original principles of the park's design.

Restoration and management proposals give preference to the majority of visitors, who seek Franklin Park for passive, unstructured recreation. However, active recreation and park change over time have also been accommodated, and conditions improved for sports use.

The full Master Plan document elaborates on the context of proposed improvements with descriptions of each park area, current uses, and historic intentions and uses. It also contains The Maintenance and Management Plan, the Report on Tree Condition, the User Analysis, the Existing Conditions Summary, and the Comparative Analysis of the Revised General Plan, the 1980 Master Plan and the current site.



# MASTER PLAN PROPOSALS

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## SECTION I. KEY ISSUES AND PRINCIPLES

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### USE AND FACILITIES

A balance needs to be achieved between the provision of facilities and the preservation of what is at the heart of Franklin Park's design, namely, the creation of a rural landscape park in which man-made elements are subordinated to the natural scenery.

The guidelines for park use are threefold:

- \* Maintaining the two-park design scheme which separates active and passive uses
- \* Responding to current needs
- \* Increasing the use of certain areas within the park

Large and significant public places need a center, and Franklin Park is no exception. In order to increase use and orient those people already coming to the park, there is a need for a place where visitors can learn about park facilities and history, and have a place to gather and meet friends.

In order for the park to be successfully and creatively used, it is essential that agencies, departments and interest groups who have jurisdiction in Franklin Park coordinate their efforts with one another.

### STRUCTURES AND FURNISHINGS

Olmsted intended for "the landscape to be everything, the architecture nothing." Proposals have integrated structures into the rural landscape as much as possible, recommending that, whenever possible, intrusive structures be removed when they become functionally obsolete. In cases where the use is sustained, it is proposed to replace them with structures better integrated into the rural landscape.

Existing historic park structures are proposed to be rehabilitated in ways that are consistent with their original design, but rebuilt only where there is a clearly demonstrated need and program for use.

### ACCESS, CIRCULATION AND PARKING

Proposals have been made to satisfy general park visitor needs for access, circulation and parking in ways that respect the landscape and minimize intrusion on park safety and serenity.



Franklin Park cannot satisfy all the demands placed on it for parking without sacrificing the park resource itself. It is recommended that existing parking areas be improved and additional small areas be selectively added. Creative solutions to the parking needs of Franklin Park's high-use facilities -- the Zoo, White Stadium, the future Visitor Center, the golf course, and projected new facilities in The Playstead and Long Crouch Woods -- need to be found in collaboration between all agencies concerned.

A comprehensive transportation plan addressing access and parking needs as well as the parking potential throughout the entire Franklin Park neighborhood must be undertaken and implemented to accommodate projected increases in visitation.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

The utility systems of the park need to be restored to good working order so that the park can function smoothly and serve its visitors well.

Proposals for lighting are intended to support night-time use of major park centers and circulation systems and, for safety reasons, discourage night-time use of other areas.

Drainage systems proposals are aimed at re-establishing and maintaining proper site drainage in order to eliminate flooding of park and surrounding streets, and to maintain use of all areas of the park.

### LANDSCAPE COMPOSITION & MANAGEMENT

The greatness of Franklin Park lies in its careful composition -- the way the landscape is structured with vegetation, structures and paths to guide and dramatize use and views.

This greatness also lies in the scale and natural environment of the park, which serves as a valuable ecological niche for wildlife in the city, while providing a unique wilderness experience for the urban dweller.

Recommendations are being proposed to restore, as much as possible, the richness of the park's landscape and to enhance the wildlife-supporting components of the site.

The future of Franklin Park depends to a great extent on an ongoing commitment to management and maintenance, including the use of personnel who have the skills and knowledge needed for its specialized care. In addition, the Community's involvement in landscape maintenance should continue.



## **SECTION II. PARK-WIDE PROPOSALS**

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### **USE AND FACILITIES**

- \* Foster activities and education in park on year-round basis to invite increased community and regional appreciation and use.
- \* Improve security within the park, coordinating the efforts of all police departments, agencies and groups.
- \* Increase the presence of the Boston Park Rangers and the Parks Department to encourage proper park use.
- \* Make park areas and facilities barrier free to the greatest extent possible.
- \* Support park use and enjoyment with high-quality maintenance.
- \* Foster ease of use and increased public understanding of Franklin Park with development of a coordinated sign system for identification, regulation, orientation and interpretation. Coordinate design of Franklin Park sign system with other Boston Parks and Recreation signage, particularly for the rest of the Emerald Necklace.

### **STRUCTURES AND FURNISHINGS**

- \* Remove chain link fencing wherever possible and conceal what must remain by painting and by planting.
- \* Repair park boundary wall as necessary.
- \* Remove chain link fence where used in place of boundary wall. Rebuild missing boundary wall.
- \* Repair park stairs as necessary.
- \* Develop design standards for structures and site furniture appropriate to the historic Olmsted park design consistent with Emerald Necklace.

### **ACCESS, CIRCULATION AND PARKING**

- \* When making modifications to park roads, maintain emergency and maintenance vehicle access.





- \* Reduce the visual impact of parking lots on the landscape with vegetation, while allowing views in and out.
- \* Provide access control at all parking lots.
- \* Encourage multiple use of parking lots. Develop management plan for special events parking.
- \* As part of transportation study, explore potential to develop parallel parking on American Legion Highway for general park use.
- \* Evaluate path design throughout park. An important definer of the character of the park is the relationship of paths to topography and views as well as their surface materials and scale.
- \* Improve the condition of all paths.
- \* Phase out all concrete paths.
- \* Re-design vehicular control to make park entrances more inviting to the visitor. Construct service gates in rustic materials -- stone and wood.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

- \* Place all utility lines underground.
- \* Electrical system -- upgrade system. Provide lighting for Peabody Circle, Visitor Center (short-term facility and long-term facility), Circuit Drive, White Stadium, White Stadium parking lot, Bear Dens area, and the open-air performance area at The Playstead Overlook Shelter area. Provide emergency call boxes in key locations throughout the park.
- \* Water System -- upgrade system. Provide drinking fountains compatible in design with park landscape for Visitor Center (short-term facility and long-term facility), Bear Dens area, Walnut Ave. and Seaver/Humboldt play areas, Playstead Overlook, and Schoolmaster Hill.
- \* Storm Drainage System -- upgrade system. Redesign Circuit Drive storm drainage when road is narrowed.
- \* Sewage system -- upgrade system. Provide temporary or permanent bathroom facilities for Visitor Center, Bear Dens area and Overlook Shelter open-air performance area.



## LANDSCAPE COMPOSITION AND MANAGEMENT

- \* Apply original planting principles and palette, adapted where necessary to present park ecology.
- \* Reinstate special planting and focal trees at selected areas along paths, park boundaries, entrances, structures, meadows, and Scarboro Pond.
- \* Reinstate intended views with selective clearing.
- \* Encourage greater species diversity and take measures to protect species valuable to the park landscape.
- \* Develop and implement a management plan to protect and improve the habitats of the park's wildlife.
- \* Implement maintenance management plan defining landscape types and their care.
- \* Control invasive species.
- \* Take steps to improve the park's growing environment.
- \* Ensure protection of park's rural landscape by maintaining screen planting between park and Zoo to greatest extent possible. Encourage MDC to maintain rural character of perimeter landscape within Zoo boundaries.

## SECTION III. PROPOSALS BY PARK AREAS

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### 1. PEABODY CIRCLE

- \* Reinforce Peabody Circle as Franklin Park's major entrance and provide access control with entrance gates and gateposts as originally intended.
- \* Reconfigure roads to improve access and safety, separating car, bus, and foot traffic.
- \* Provide parking.
- \* Make repairs to Carriage Shelter as necessary.

### 2. REFECTORY HILL

- \* Build a Visitor Center in an appropriate style for gathering and park orientation.



- \* Re-use former Refectory service entrance in conjunction with proposed Visitor Center.
- \* As short-term solution, add visitor services to brick building located near golf course. Long-term, incorporate golf functions on a separate floor within the proposed Visitor Center.
- \* Provide some parking near Visitor Center.

### 3. ABBOTTSWOOD

- \* Improve this site for picnic use with upgraded site furniture, clear entrance paths, and opened views to The Country Meadow.

### 4. AMERICAN LEGION HIGHWAY BOUNDARY

- \* Upgrade all entrances and paths; narrow main entrance and path to pedestrian scale, eliminating parking in front of entrance; add path opposite Franklin Hill Ave. to respond to need.
- \* Relocate picnicking along American Legion Highway edge in two groves -- one north of current grove and one south of proposed new entrance across from Franklin Hill Ave. This is a result of the number of visitors entering the park from Franklin Hill Ave., the use of renovated back 9 holes of golf course, and the need to protect the fragile Beech tree grove.
- \* Develop small naturalistic play area near Lena Park entrance.
- \* If Scarboro Pond is expanded, relocate a smaller Mother's Rest sitting area closer to the water and overlooking the meadow.

### 5. PARKS DEPARTMENT MAINTENANCE YARD

- \* In order to protect the serenity of the Scarboro Pond landscape and prevent vehicular traffic there, develop new maintenance yard access road off Morton Street.

### 6. SCARBORO POND

- \* As a means to help solve park drainage problems and restore intended scenic effect of Scarboro Pond on the park landscape, expand pond to limits shown on 1891 Plan, if determined to be technically feasible.



- \* Repair pond's outflow control structure, improve water quality, and stabilize banks.
- \* Repair bridges as necessary. In conjunction with pond expansion add small stone bridges as originally designed.
- \* Remove running granite block wall. Prevent vehicular access to this area with control gate near Shattuck Hospital.
- \* Narrow Morton Street entrance and road to pedestrian scale, maintaining view of pond's carriage bridge from entrance.

#### 7. SCARBORO HILL

- \* Provide appropriately designed benches such as those on Playstead Overlook to take advantage of views and facilitate use of this destination point.

#### 8. THE RESTING GROUND

- \* To restore the open, undeveloped character of this landscape, relocate tennis courts to The Playstead.
- \* Improve picnicking facilities.
- \* Re-configure intersection at Shattuck Hospital entrance for improved circulation and safety.
- \* Organize parking areas on both sides of road, and add vehicular control gate north of parking areas.
- \* Blend running block wall into the landscape by use of grading and planting.
- \* Coordinate with Shattuck Hospital to move perimeter fence up to top of bank, and plant bank to screen hospital parking from the park.

#### 9. FOREST HILLS ENTRANCE

- \* Reconstruct gates and gateposts to recreate original entrance experience and provide access control.
- \* Make repairs to bridge as necessary.
- \* Redesign Shattuck bus shelter.





## 10. ELLICOTTTDALE

- \* To restore the undeveloped, meadow character of Ellicottdale, especially the important view through Ellicott Arch, realign the softball field with a small backstop in dale.
- \* Monitor condition of Ellicott Arch, and clean interior walls of structure.
- \* Restore plantings on Ellicott Arch.

## 11. SCHOOLMASTER HILL

- \* Relocate Schoolmaster Hill picnic facilities to terrace as originally intended, restoring open parkland character of hillside behind terrace. Use appropriately designed picnic tables. Develop additional access to terrace near drinking fountain.
- \* Thickly plant Schoolmaster Hill with shrubs to prevent damaging uses. Improve pathways up to Schoolmaster Hill.
- \* Stabilize/repair shelter ruins.
- \* Short-term, stain wooden arbor to blend into landscape. Long-term, remove wooden arbor and reconstruct original stone and wooden arbor in phases.

## 12. THE COUNTRY MEADOW/GOLF COURSE

- \* Short-term, screen existing brick building with planting and provide visitor services.
- \* Restore open meadow character by removing brick building when functionally obsolete. Provide for golf functions in a separate area within the Refectory Visitor Center.
- \* Remove concrete golf course shelter building.
- \* Reinforce meadow character by use of grass rather than sand bunkers. The planned renovation of the golf course shall be designed to minimize intrusion of course on Country Meadow scenery.
- \* Maintain unbroken rolling terrain with careful golf course maintenance program.
- \* Remove linear plantings of trees and restore original composition of selective tree masses in meadow/golf course and along meadow/golf course edge.



- \* Encourage increased use by the general public of this major park area through special events days and off-season activities.

### 13. THE WILDERNESS

- \* To protect fragile hemlock grove and reinforce informal forest character of The Wilderness, remove large picnic grove. Also remove abandoned picnic grove in northeast quadrant of The Wilderness. Improve smaller grove near Hagborne Hill to provide opportunity for woodland picnicking.
- \* Relocate benches near the base of The 99 Steps to an upgraded seating area west of Ellicott Arch.
- \* Improve pathway intersections at base of The 99 Steps.
- \* Develop a three-level path system of hard surface, soft surface and unsurfaced paths based on path location and use.
- \* Reorganize, resurface and plant The Valley Gate parking lot.
- \* Improve Williams Street entrance with rustic stonework consistent in character with boundary wall.
- \* Eliminate maintenance entrance north of Williams Street and relocate pedestrian entrance for safety purposes closer to Williams Street.
- \* Improve drainage way along south edge of Williams Street entrance.

### 14. LONG HILL (THE SAUSAGE)

- \* Coordinate with the MDC to relocate chain link fence up to edge of Glen Lane, and restore original path system.
- \* Coordinate with the MDC to move parking lot east; organize and soften with planting.

### 15. THE VALLEY GATE

- \* Reconstruct two missing gatehouses and all gates to regain visual expression of gateway between the active and passive areas of the park and provide for access control. Use buildings in conjunction with park ranger activities and park programming.



- \* Narrow the roads through The Valley Gate to minimize expanse of asphalt, maintaining sufficient width for vehicular access.

#### 16. THE STEADING

- \* Remove non-functional bathroom building and picnic area.
- \* Redesign Glen Lane to pedestrian scale, maintaining sufficient width for maintenance and emergency vehicular access.

#### 17. THE PLAYSTEAD

- \* Provide for open-air performance area at Overlook Shelter ruins that respects the scale, structural capabilities and historic importance of the site and, to whatever extent possible, reflects the character of the original building. The facility is to be used for programmed activities such as Playhouse-in-the-Park and other entertainment events.
- \* Restore Playstead Overlook as sitting/viewing area with restored benches, planting and historic drinking fountains. Repair and stabilize Overlook structure. Improve park views from this area, modifying intended views where subsequent development makes this desirable.
- \* Redesign Walnut Avenue playground as naturalistic play area to restore rural character of entrance and encourage movement from the edge into the park.
- \* Redesign White Stadium parking lot to hug stadium's south end to improve visual character and functioning of area. Maintain one leg of Walnut Ave. entrance road and half of Playstead Road as access to the new stadium lot.
- \* Develop formal planting at White Stadium's north end to complement building. Soften view of stadium and parking lot at south end with naturalistic planting.
- \* Narrow Humboldt Ave. and Elm Hill Ave. entrance roads. Maintain sufficient width to allow for maintenance and emergency vehicular use.
- \* Coordinate with the MDC on zoo access and parking along Pierpont Rd.
- \* Site the relocated tennis courts between playing fields and the proposed stadium parking lot. Add basketball court and School Department field sports facilities.
- \* Maintain the playing fields for multi-sports use.



## 18. LONG CROUCH WOODS

- \* Develop major park activity center at The Bear Dens including such amenities as food concessions and children's play facilities in the spirit of the originally conceived Little Folks Fair. Upgrade structures, conserve bas relief of bears and improve views to area.
- \* Remove raccoon cage in woods.
- \* Redesign Humboldt Ave./Seaver St. playground as naturalistic play area to restore rural character of entrance and encourage movement from the edge into the park.
- \* Upgrade Humboldt Ave. parking lot.

## 19. CIRCUIT DRIVE

- \* Short-term, enforce speed limit and truck prohibition.
- \* Long-term, narrow road from four to two lanes.
- \* Remove running block wall from the most sensitive, rural landscapes -- near The Wilderness, Schoolmaster Hill and Ellicottdale. Install high curbing to control vehicles. Make wall less visually prominent along The Country Meadow by use of grading and planting.
- \* Add medians in three crossing locations.
- \* Develop several small parking areas near Ellicottdale and The 99 Steps, The Wilderness.
- \* Develop bicycle path along north edge of drive.

## HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS AND FUNDING

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The following are projects which have been identified as having a high priority based on a range of criteria including: general importance, public demand, project location, the condition of the area, the maintenance and management implications, cost and the level of interagency coordination required.

The listed projects have been organized into three groups: projects presently funded from sources outside The Department of Environmental Management's (DEM) funds, projects proposed to be funded by DEM's year 1 funds of \$1,000,000, and projects proposed to be funded by DEM's year 2 funds of \$1,000,000.





## PROJECTS FUNDED BY SOURCES OTHER THAN DEM

<u>Franklin Park Golf Course</u>	\$1,200,000
<u>Schoolmaster Hill</u>	\$200,000
<u>Scarboro Pond Water Quality Study</u>	\$100,000
<u>Humbolt Avenue</u>	\$130,000
<u>Seaver Street Drainage</u>	\$30,000
<u>Forest Hills Entrance</u>	\$110,000
<u>White Stadium</u>	\$3,000,000
<u>Franklin Park Zoo</u>	
- African Tropical Forest	\$26,000,000
- Zoo Rehabilitation Work	\$288,000

## PROJECTS PROPOSED TO BE FUNDED BY YEAR 1 DEM FUNDS

<u>Re-design of Play Area, Walnut Avenue Entrance</u>	\$220,000
Participatory design process with community	
Demolition of existing playground	
Construction of new play area	
<u>Upgrading of Entrances</u>	\$130,000
Signage and Planting at:	
Peabody Circle	
Forest Hills	
Williams Street	
Humbolt Avenue	
<u>Tree Pruning</u>	\$90,000
(Including \$40,000 Early Action - Completed)	
Locations to be determined	
<u>Restoration Planting</u>	\$50,000
Ellicott Arch	
Other locations to be determined	



Reorganization of Playstead Parking and Field Facilities \$500,000

Demolition of existing lot  
Construction of lot around stadium's south end  
Paving and curbing  
Lighting  
Planting

To be coordinated with School Department

PROJECTS PROPOSED TO BE FUNDED BY YEAR 2 FUNDS

Improvements to American Legion Highway Edge \$325,000

Narrow carriage entrance to pedestrian scale  
Establish entrance opposite Franklin Hill Avenue  
Upgrade all entrances and paths  
Eliminate small parking area  
Relocate picnic area  
Develop small play area near Lena Park entrance

Upgrading of Entrances \$250,000

Narrow Sigourney Street entrance and plant  
Re-design Walnut Avenue entrance

Vegetation Maintenance and Restoration \$250,000

Locations to be determined

Picnic Area Rehabilitation \$75,000

The Resting Ground (including tennis courts demolition)  
The Wilderness

Miscellaneous Improvements \$100,000

Signage to be selected  
Tree work to be selected  
Remove several obsolete structures



We want a park to be a place where people can enjoy the outdoors. We want a park to be a place where people can enjoy the outdoors. We want a park to be a place where people can enjoy the outdoors.

Franklin Park Historic  
Public Parks and the Endangered of Tenants  
1970

#### GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PARK RESTORATION

##### 1. Primary Purpose of the Park

Franklin Park was created as a refuge from the noise and confusion of the city. Planning and management must respect this original intent, which is more important today than it was 100 years ago.

##### 2. The Park as a Whole

Improvements and activities must recognize the Franklin Park as one integrated whole and that all of its parts are interdependent.

##### 3. A Regional Park

The significance of Franklin Park extends far beyond its immediate neighborhood and beyond even the City of Boston. It is a treasure for the entire region, and improvements to the park must respond to the needs of the region as well as those of the neighborhood.

##### 4. Management and Skilled Maintenance

The future of Franklin Park depends to a great extent on on-going commitment to management and maintenance, including the use of personnel who have the skills and knowledge needed to properly maintain the park.

##### 5. Localized Park Functions

Four special site-specific functions define the character of Franklin Park and should be considered and respected in all proposals for improvement:

##### a. The relationship of made and paths to topography and views

##### b. The relationship of open spaces to woodlands

##### c. The relationship of the natural landscape to man-made structures

##### d. The relationship of the park itself to the city beyond

##### e. Use and Preservation

#### WILLIAMS STREET ENTRANCE

- Improve entrance with rustic stonework consistent in character with boundary wall
- Improve drainage ways, seating area and pathways intersections at base of 90 steps

#### FOREST HILLS ENTRANCE

- Reconstruct entry gates and gateposts to recreate original experience of park entry
- Re-build Shattuck has stop in an appropriate style

#### ELLIOTTDALE

- Realign softball field to restore open meadow character and important view through Elliott Arch
- Minimize condition of Elliott Arch and clean interior walls of structure
- Replant Elliott Arch

#### THE RESTING GROUND

- Relocate tennis courts to The Playfield to restore passive landscape of The Resting Ground
- Upgrade picnic facilities
- Organize parking areas on both sides of road
- Blend running block wall into landscape by use of grading and planting
- Coordinate with Shattuck Hospital to move perimeter fence up back and plant bank to screen hospital parking lot

#### SCARBORO HILL

- Provide seating with appropriate benches built into the concourse
- Improve views across The Country Meadow

#### SCARBORO POND

- Expand pond, if determined feasible, to limits shown in 1891 Revised General Plan for scenic effect and to help solve part drainage problem
- Add original designed stone bridges necessary for pedestrian circulation
- Improve water quality, stabilize banks and repair outflow control structure
- Remove running granite block wall, prevent vehicular access to this area with control gate near Shattuck Hospital

#### PARKS DEPARTMENT MAINTENANCE YARD

- Develop new maintenance yard access off Morton St. to allow Scarboro Pond landscape to be free of vehicles

#### SCHOOLMASTER HILL

- Stabilize/repair Schoolmaster Hill Shelter ruins
- Stain wooden arbor to blend into landscape, short term
- Reconstruct original wooden and stone arbor in places, long term
- Add appropriately designed picnic tables along terrace
- Present tables to restore open parkland on hillside
- Develop additional access to terrace near drinking fountain
- Thickly plant Schoolmaster Hill with shrubs to prevent damaging uses
- Improve pathways up to Schoolmaster Hill

#### THE STEADING

- Remove non-functional bathroom building and picnic area
- Redesign Glen Lane and entrance to pedestrian scale

#### THE PLAYSTAD

- Redesign White Stadium parking lot to hug stadium's south end, improving visual character and functioning of area
- Maintain one leg of Walnut Ave entrance road and half of Playstead Road as access to stadium lot
- Narrow Humboldt Ave and Elm Hill Ave entrance roads
- Coordinate with MDC on zoo access and parking along Pierpont Rd
- Provide for open-air performance area at Playstead Overlook shelter ruins that respects the scale and historic importance of the site

- Restore Playstead Overlook benches, historic drinking fountains, and views
- Site relocated tennis courts near ballfields
- Add basketball court and School Dept field sports facilities
- Maintain playing fields for multi-sports use
- Redesign Walnut Ave playground as naturalistic play area

#### LONG CROUCH WOODS

- Develop major park activity center at The Bear Dens including such amenities as food concessions and children's play facilities in the spirit of the originally conceived Little Fells Fair
- Improve views in wood and to dens
- Remove raccoon cage in woods
- Redesign Humboldt Ave, Beaver St playground as naturalistic play area
- Upgrade Humboldt Ave parking lot

#### THE VALLEY GATE

- Narrow roads through the valley gate to minimize expanse of asphalt
- Reconstruct two missing gateposts and gates to regain visual effect of gateway and provide access control
- Use buildings in conjunction with Park Ranger activities and Park programming

#### LONG HILL ("THE SALSAGE")

- Coordinate with MDC to relocate chain link fence up to edge of Glen Lane and restore original path system
- Coordinate with MDC to move parking lot east, organize and soften with planting

#### CIRCUIT DRIVE

- Narrow drive from four to two lanes
- Remove running block wall along sensitive rural landscapes
- The Wilderness, Schoolmaster Hill and Elliottdale
- Install high curbing to control vehicles
- Blend wall into landscape along The Country Meadow by use of grading and planting
- Add medium to assist crossing road in three locations
- Develop several small parking areas near Elliottdale and near The iv Steps, The Wilderness
- Develop bicycle path along north edge of drive

#### PLAYBOY CIRCLE

- Reconfigure to separate car, bus, bicycle and foot traffic
- Add entry gates and gateposts to create intended experience of park entry

#### REFECTORY HILL

- Establish an appropriately styled visitor center
- Restore views to The Country Meadow

#### ARBORETS WOOD

- Improve for picnic use with upgraded furniture, clear entrance paths, and opened views to The Country Meadow

#### THE COUNTRY MEADOW/GOLF COURSE

- Screen brick building with vegetation, short term, and provide visitor services
- Restore open meadow character by removing when functionally obsolete
- Relocating uses to a separate area of visitor center
- Remove concrete shelter building
- Install grass rather than sand bunkers to minimize visual impact of golf course on meadow landscape
- Relocate existing picnicking in two groves, to protect fragile Beech trees, avoid conflict with golf and be convenient to nearby housing
- Upgrade entrances and paths
- Narrow main path to pedestrian scale, add path opposite Franklin Hill Ave. to respond to need
- Relocate a smaller-scale Mother's Rest sitting area near expanded Scarboro Pond
- Develop small naturalistic play area near Lena Park entrance

#### PARK-WIDE PROPOSALS

##### PARK VEGETATION

- Planting Restoration
- Apply original planning principles and palette, adapted where necessary to present park ecology
- Reinstate special planting at selected areas along paths, park boundaries, entrances, structures, woodlands, meadows and Scarboro Pond
- Reinstate intended views with selective clearing
- Vegetation Management
- Implement maintenance and management plan defining landscape types and their care
- Encourage greater species diversity

##### PARK SIGNAGE

- Develop historic sign system design for Franklin Park and Emerald Necklace
- Locate signs for identification, orientation, interpretation and regulation at key locations

##### PARK INFRASTRUCTURE

- Place all utility lines underground
- Upgrade electrical, water, storm drainage and sewage systems
- Provide lighting, drinking fountains and restrooms at identified sites

##### WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

- Implement management plan to protect and improve the habitats of the park's wildlife

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
1970-1971

The Halcrow Company, Inc.  
Landscape Architecture Historic Preservation  
1970

Consultants:  
Natural Systems Scientists, Horticulturists & Arboriculture  
Landscape Architects & Urban Planning  
Historic Monuments & Landmarks



Franklin Park  
Boston, Mass.

Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program Master Plan



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